

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 OC-06 CTME-00 PRS-00

SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00 WRDE-00 MCT-01

PM-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 PA-01 EA-10 HA-05 /118 W

-----101233 191443Z /42

O R 191358Z FEB 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8063

AMEMBASSY DJOBOUTI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR VAININGEN GERMANY

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AG

SUBJECT: CYPRIOT AIRLINER HIJACKING: ALGERIAN COMMUNIQUE

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT OFFICIAL ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE (APS) HAS ISSUED COMMUNIQUE ON CYPRIOT AIRLINER HIJACKING. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS OF APS PRONOUNCEMENT:

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A. ALGERIA HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL MESSAGES ON HIJACKING: ONE FROM CYPRUS AIRLINE TO AIR ALGERIE ASKING LATTER TO CONTACT GOA TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR PLANE TO LAND IN ALGERIA; SECOND FROM PLO'S ABU MAYZAR APPEALING IN NAME OF HOSTAGES FOR ALGERIANS TO INTERVENE WITH LIBYA TO ALLOW PLANE TO LAND THERE;

AND THIRD FROM DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT GOULED ADDRESSED TO ALGERIAN, SYRIAN AND LIBYAN PRESIDENTS NOTING REQUESTS FOR AID MADE BY "DIPLOMATS" (PRESUMABLY ABU MAYZAR) AND ASKING THAT PLANE BE RECEIVED FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS.

B. FOREIGN PRESS AGENCIES HAVE SPOKEN OF CERTAIN "ALLEGED" CONTACTS IN DJIBOUTE BETWEEN ALGERIANS AND HIJACKERS. DESPITE THESE REPORTS, AUTHORIZED ALGERIAN SOURCE HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT PLANE MAY NOT COME HERE AND THAT ALL ALGERIAN AIRPORTS HAVE BEEN CLOSED TO IT.

C. IN PAST, ALGERIANS HAVE ACCEDED TO REQUESTS BY SUCH AS U.S., AUSTRIA AND JAPAN THAT HIJACKED AIRCRAFT BE ALLOWED TO LAND IN ALGERIA FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS. NOW, HOWEVER, "CERTAIN CHANCELLERIES SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL MASS MEDIA" HAVE BEGUN ANTI-ALGERIAN CAMPAIGN ON TERRORISM ISSUE. FOR THIS REASON, APART FROM DISCHARGING OBLIGATIONS TO ITS OWN NATIONALS, ALGERIA HAS DECIDED TO REFER ALL SUCH REQUESTS TO UNSYG, TO INTERNATIONAL BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR AVIATION AND TO HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS.

D. GOA REGRETS SITUATION IN WHICH INNOCENT VICTIMS FIND THEMSELVES BUT WILL NEVERTHELESS HOLD TO ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECISION.

). WE UNDERSTAND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ARE REPORTING THAT MOROCCAN HOSTAGE ON PLANE IS OTHMAN BENANI, BROTHER OF WIDOW OF MEHDI BEN BARKA.

3. MEDIA HAVE ALSO SAID THAT HIJACKERS ARE A PALESTINIAN AND AN IRAQI. GERMAN WOMEN WORKING WITH THEM WAS ARRESTED IN NICOSIA.

4. IT IS RUMORED HERE THAT LIBYA MAY REVERSE ITS DECISION NOT TO RECEIVE AIRCRAFT.HAYNES

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 19 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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